ANDHRA PRADESH GOVERNMENT
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERIES No. 11

EASTERN CĀLUKYAN COINS

IN

THE ANDHRA PRADESH GOVERNMENT MUSEUM.

BY

Dr. M. RAMA RAO, M. A. Ph., D.
Professor of History
Sri Venkateswara University College,
TIRUPATHI.

General Editor
MD. ABDUL WAHEED KHAN,
Director of Archaeology.
Government of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.

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PREFACE

The long reign of the Eastern Chalukyas over the coastal Andhra country for about four and a half centuries is a remarkable chapter in the history of South India. Beginning from Kubja Vishnu Vardhana's Coronation at Vengi (631 A.D.) until Kulettunga-I shifted the Royal headquarters to the south in about 1080 A.D., the continuity of the single dynasty without any break served a long way in building up a sort of political stability for a pretty long duration. In all branches of administration these kings showed their own individuality. In the system of coinage too this peculiarity is worth to be noted. They specifically mentioned in some inscriptions that certain number of Raja Raja Madas or Vishnuvardhana Gadyanas have been granted as gifts to temples, etc. This shows that there existed a difference of value between their coins and those of the neighbouring States, though both the coins were of the same denominations. Similar was the case in weights and other measures. It is not so easy for us to estimate or assess the exact value of the Madas or Gadyanas of those particular kings.

In the present hoard, the author has classified two sets of coins bearing the legend Vishama Siddhi, one with square script and the other with round script. On the basis of palaeographic grounds the first variety has been sagaciously assigned to Vishnuvardhana-I and the second to his grandson Vishnuvardhana-II. It is also pointed out that these early Chalukyan kings adopted on their coins the same symbolism of their immediate political predecessors, the Vishnukundins. In the present systems of various new Governments too we observe such adoptations of certain conventions and seals, etc., which existed already in vogue, just to avoid confusion and misunderstandings in the public.

Dr. Rama Rao needs no fresh introduction, as he is a renowned historian and numismatist who published many valuable and informative books which redounds to his credit. I am grateful to the learned author for the trouble he has taken to study all the Eastern Chalukyan coins of the State Museum and to prepare this monograph which I am sure is a valuable contribution to the existing literature in the field of Numismatics. In the preparation of this book I owe a debt of gratitude to Sri P. V. G. Raju, the Hon'ble Minister for Education and Sri L. N. Gupta, I.A.S., Secretary to Government, Education Department for their kind assistance and guidance in bringing out this monograph.

I must put on record my appreciation of Sarvashri Prabrahma Sastry, Assistant in Epigraphy and P. S. Johnstone, Publication Assistant for reading proof and offering me valuable suggestions.

In the end I express my thanks to Sri S. Krishna Rao Proprietor of the Citizen Press for bringing out this publication within the scheduled time.

Hyderabad-Dn.,
16th March 1963.

MOHD. ABDUL WAHEED KHAN
Director of Archaeology
Government of Andhra Pradesh
Hyderabad.

CATALOGUE OF SELECT EASTERN CĀLUKYAN COINS.

Introduction

I examined a collection of 14,435 copper coins of the Eastern Cālukyas obtained from the village of Dondapadu in the Nalgonda district of Andhra Pradesh and preserved in the A. P. Government Museum, Hyderabad, in May, 1961 and found them of very great importance to Indian numismatics. These coins were all partly rusted and the legends on them were partly visible. They were all cleaned at my suggestion and I re-examined them in May, 1962. Some of the coins have no legend and most of them are copies containing the same legend either completely or in part. I selected 205 of these coins and included them in the subjoined classified and descriptive Catalogue.

A few Eastern Cālukyan coins have been published previously. Three gold coins of the following description were obtained from Arakan in Burma :—

Obverse—*Varāha* facing left with a lamp stand before and behind, *ma* symbol before the legs and a chatra and two chauries above. *Śrī Cālukya-candrasya*[1].

The Korumilli grant of Rajaraja[2] mentions his father, Vimalāditya, with the title *Cālukyacandra*. These coins have therefore been correctly attributed to the Eastern Cālukyan king, Vimalāditya. Another coin of the same description bearing the legend *Śrī Cālukyavallabha*[3], has been published by Elliott. Two gold coins of the following description obtained from Gudur, near Masulipatam, in the Krishna district, have been published by Hultzsch[4]—

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1. *Ind. Ant.* XIX, pp. 79-82.
2. *Ibid* XIV, pp. 48-49.
3. Elliott, *Coins of Southern India*, pl. III-nos. 79 and 80.
4. *Ind. Ant.* XXV, pp. 317-323.

Obverse—*Varāha* facing left with a lamp stand before and behind and ankusa, chatra, the moon, sun and two cuaries above. *Śrī Rāja-rājasya sa* 34.

Obverse—Description and legend same as on above but the year is 37

These coins have been attributed to the famous Eastern Cālukyan king, Rājarāja, the patron of the *Āndhra Mahābhārata* (1022-43 A.D.) But these are gold coins and bear the figures of the Varāha on the obverse. This *Varāha* was the *lāñchana* of the Cālukyas.

A collection of 71 copper coins of the following description have been obtained from Yelamanchili in the Visakhapatnam district[5].

Obverse—Lion facing left with the legend *Viṣamasiddhi* above it inside a dotted border.

Reverse—A double trident surmounted by crescent and flanked by a lamp stand on each side inside a border of rays.

These have been attributed to the Eastern Cālukyas on the basis of the legend which was the title of two Eastern Cālukyan kings, Viṣnuvardhana I and his grandson, Viṣnuvardhana II.

The copper coins of the collection under review are more or less similar with regard to the obverse and reverse symbols. They can, however, be classified into the following types on the basis of minor differences :—

I. Lion facing left with mouth open, tail uplifted and left forepaw raised.

II. Lion facing left with mouth open, tail looped above, forepaw raised and double trident and crescent above the body.

III. Lion facing left with mouth open, forepaw raised, feet like claws and double trident before.

IV. Lion facing left with mouth open, forepaw raised, feet like claws, double trident before and without legend.

5. *Ibid* XXV, pp. 322-323.

V. Lion facing left with mouth open, tail looped above and hip in one pellet.

VI. Lion facing left with mouth open, tail looped above, forepaw raised and plump oblong body.

VII. Lion facing left with mouth open, tail looped above, forepaw raised, feet like claws and double trident before.

VIII. Lion facing left with mouth open, forepaw raised, tail looped above and feet not visible.

IX. Lion facing left with mouth open, forepaw raised, tail looped above and body in a lump.

X. Peculiar lion facing left with mouth open.

These coins are of great importance. In the first place, this is the largest single collection of Eastern Cālukyan coins obtained so far. Secondly, these coins bear close resemblance to the Visnukundin coins which also contain on the obverse a lion with a forepaw raised. The flanking lamp stands are also common. The only difference is that the vase in the centre on the reverse of the Visnukundin coins is substituted on these Eastern Cālukyan coins by the double trident. In the third place, the coins of this collection contain legends in two different types of characters-square (Cf. Nos. 154, 166, 167, 169, 171, 174, 176, 178, 182, 184, 187, 188, 191, 197, 198, 199) and round (Cf. Nos. 161, 164, 193). A comparison of these two types of characters with those of the early c.p. grants of the Eastern Cālukyas brings out the significance of this difference. The Timmapuram plates of Visnuvardhana I[6] are in square characters while the published grants of his grandson, Visnuvardhana II[7] are in round characters. Both these rulers had the title *Visamasiddhi*, but the characters of their grants are different. The same is the case with regard to the legends of these coins. It is reasonable therefore to attribu

6. *Ep. Ind.* IX, pp. 317-319 and lines 1 and 8 of the text.
7. *Ind. Ant.* VII, plate between pages 190-191.

coins with the legends in square characters to Visnuvardhana I (624-642 A.D.) and those with the legend in round characters to his grandson, Visnuvardhana II (673-681 A.D.). It is thus clear that these coins belong to two kings and cover a period of nearly sixty years. The identity of the obverse symbol on these coins and the coins of the Visnukundins implies temporal relationship between the Visnukundins and the Eastern Cālukyas. This is confirmed by the fact that the Visnukundins were succeeded, after a short gap of about fifteen years of Durjaya rule, by the Eastern Cālukyas, as rulers of Vengi. Here is numismatic corroboration of a historical event known from other sources.

The provenance of these coins is also of great importance. These coins were obtained from the village of Dondapadu in the Nalgonda district. From Tangaturu in the Bhongir taluk of the same district was obtained a collection of 787 Visnukundin coins.[8] These two collections obtained from the same district imply that the Eastern Cālukyas conquered the Visnukundin territory on the other side of the Eastern Ghats even in the time of the founder of the dynasty and that the dynasty held sway over it at least till the end of the reign of Visnuvardhana II.

While the Eastern Cālukyas were ruling over Vengi, their cousins, the Cālukyas of Badami, were busy fighting the Pallavas of Kāñchī. Their territory included the Rāyalasīma part of Andhra Pradesh but there is no evidence to show that they ruled over the eastern districts of Telingana. The Early Cālukyas were overthrown by Rāstrakūta Dantidurga who is said to have conquered Kosala, Kalinga and the Srisaila country but not Vengi or the area on the other side of the Ghats opposite. Dantidurga's successor, Krisna I, despatched an army under the command of his son, Yuvaraja Govinda, in or about 769 A.D. against the Eastern Cālukyas and

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[8] A catalogue of these coins prepared by this author is being published by the A.P. Archaeological Department.

their king, Vijayāditya I, who was unable to resist this invasion ceded his treasury, lands and army to the enemy[9]. There is no evidence to show that the Rāstrakūta army penetrated into Vengi on this occasion and the transaction must have taken place on the other side of the Ghats. Nor was any part of the coastal area taken over by the Rāstrakūtas as a result. It is therefore evident that it was the territory on the other side of the Ghats that Vijayāditya I surrendered to the Rāstrakūtas. It is very likely therefore that the eastern districts of Telingana conquered by Visnuvardhana I continued under the rule of his successors till the time of Vijayāditya I.

I thank Sri N. Ramesan, former Director of Archaeology, Andhra Pradesh, for kindly inviting me to study these coins and prepare this monograph, and the staff of the A. P. Museum for rendering me all help in examining thees coins.

M. RAMA RAO.

Sri Venkateswara University,
Tirupathi,
10-10-1962.

9. *Ep. Ind.* VI, pp. 202-212.

CATALOGUE OF SELECT EASTERN CĀLUKYAN COINS

I. *Lion facing left with mouth open, tail uplifted and left forepaw raised.*

No.	Size	Weight	Legend
1.	.65"	43 Gr.	Visamasiddhi.
2.	.60	44.5	Vısamasi (ddhi).
3.	.60	39.5	Visamasi (ddhi).
4.	.60	35	Visamasi.
5.	.60	49	Visamasi.
6.	.70	42.5	Visamasi.
7.	.68	60.5	Visamasi.
8.	.67	32	Visamasi.
9.	.70	57	Visamasi.
10.	.61	41.5	Visama.
11.	.68	49.5	Visama.
12.	.65	61.5	Visama.
13.	.60	61.5	Visama.
14.	.61	46.5	Visama.
15.	.61	54.5	Vısama.
16.	.61	48.5	Visama.
17.	.65	53.5	samasid (dhi).
18.	.62	51.5	samasiddhi.
19.	.70	58.5	samasiddhi.
20.	.63	50.5	samasi.
21.	.60	39.5	samasi.

No.	Size	Weight	Legend
22.	.61	49	ṣamasi.
23.	.70	60	ṣama.
24.	.62	38	ṣama.

II. *Lion facing left with mouth open, tail uplifted, forepaw raised and double trident and crescent above body.*

25.	.61	39	Viṣamasiddhi.
26.	.62	45	Viṣamasiddhi.
27.	.60	40	(Vi)samasiddhi.
28.	.60	47	Viṣamasi.
29.	.65	52	Viṣamasi.
30.	.61	39.5	Viṣamasi.
31.	.62	42.5	Viṣamasi.
32.	.60	36.5	Viṣama.
33.	.64	45	Viṣama.

III. *Lion facing left with mouth open, forepaw raised, feet like claws and double trident before.*

34.	.62	45	Viṣamasiddhi.
35.	.61	36.5	Viṣamasiddhi.
36.	.62	43	(Vi)ṣama.
37.	.61	38.5	Viṣama.
38.	.58	38	Viṣama.
39.	.60	42	Viṣama.
40.	.65	42.5	Viṣama.
41.	.60	53.5	Viṣama.
42.	.55	31.5	Viṣa.
43.	.62	46.5	Viṣa.

No.	Size	Weight	Legend
44.	.61	37	Visa.
45.	.62	44.5	samasi.
46.	.62	44.5	samasi.
47.	.60	35.5	sama(si).
48.	.62	41	siddhi.

IV. *Lion facing left with mouth open, forepaw raised, feet like claws and double trident before, without legend.*

49.	.60	46.5	....
50.	.60	36.5	....
51.	.62	64	....
52.	.62	60	....
53.	.60	36	....
54.	.61	56	....
55.	.60	48.5	....
56.	.61	45	....

V. *Lion facing left with mouth open, tail uplifted and hip as one pellet.*

57.	.64	57.5	Visamasiddhi.
58.	.61	51.5	Visamasiddhi.
59.	.65	41.5	Visamasiddhi.
60.	.66	54.5	Visamasiddhi.
61.	.62	50	Visamasiddhi.
62.	.70	62	Visamasiddhi.
63.	.60	41	Visamasiddhi.
64.	.61	44.5	Visamasid(dhi).
65.	.60	34.5	(Vi)samasid(dhi).
66.	.61	55.5	(Vi)samasid(dhi).

No.	Size	Weight	Legend
67.	.61	42.5	Visamasi.
68.	.58	28.5	Visamasi.
69.	.64	53.5	Visamasi.
70.	.70	62.5	Visamasi.
71.	.60	44	Visamasi.
72.	.60	36	Visamasi.
73.	.61	46.5	Visamasi.
74.	.62	41.5	Visamasi.
75.	.52	31.5	Visamasi.
76.	.69	48	Visamasi.
77.	.62	42.5	Visamasi.
78.	.61	38	samasiddhi.
79.	.62	43	samasiddhi.
80.	.66	42.5	samasiddhi.
81.	.65	54.5	samasid(dhi).
82.	.60	48.5	Visama.
83.	.60	44.5	Visama.
84.	.62	44	Visama.
85.	.62	38.5	Visama.
86.	.60	41.5	Visama.
87.	.64	65.5	Visama.
88.	.60	50.5	Visama.
89.	.61	44	Visama.
90.	.59	49	Visama.
91.	.60	49	Visama.

No.	Size	Weight	Legend
92.	.62	46	(Vi)sama.
93.	.60	46	Visa.
94.	.55	32	Visa.
95.	.55	34	Visa.
96.	.57	41	Visa.
97.	.62	46.5	samasi.
98.	.65	58.5	masiddhi.
99.	.60	40	masi.

VI. *Lion facing left with mouth open, tail looped above, forepaw raised and plump oblong body.*

100.	.58	38.5	Visamasiddhi.
101.	.62	52	Visamasiddhi.
102.	.64	38.5	Visamasi (ddhi).
103.	.60	38.5	Visamasi (ddhi).
104.	.60	33.5	Visama.
105.	.62	55	Visama.

VII. *Lion facing left with mouth open, tail looped above, forepaw raised, feet like claws and double trident before.*

106.	.60	35	Visamasiddhi.
107.	.60	32	Visamasiddhi.
108.	.62	52.5	Visamasiddhi.
109.	.62	36	Visamasid(dhi).
110.	.62	48	Visamasid(dhi).
111.	.61	38.5	Visama(siddhi).
112.	.58	39.5	Visamasi.

No.	Size	Weight	Legend
113.	.58	39	Visamasi.
114.	.60	36	Visamasi.
115.	.61	40	Visama.
116.	.62	39.5	Visama.
117.	.60	38.5	Visama.
118.	.55	37.5	Visama.
119.	.61	58	samasi.
120.	.58	39	samasi.

VIII. *Lion facing left with mouth open, tail looped above, forepaw raised, and legs not visible*

121.	.61	50	Visama.
122.	.59	42	Vişa(ma).
123.	.69	68.5	samasiddhi.
124.	.55	37	samasi.
125.	.55	28.5	sama.
126.	.60	42	sama.

IX. *Lion facing left with mouth open, tail looped above, forepaw raised and body in a lump*

127.	.55	24.5	Visamasi(ddhi).
128.	.60	38	Visamasi.
129.	.59	39	sama.
130.	.63	44	sa(ma).
131.	.63	50	masi.
132.	.62	35.5	No legend.
133.	.62	52	Do.

No.	Size	Weight	Legend
134.	.62	38.5	Do
135.	.60	48.5	Do
136.	.58	42	Do

X. *Peculiar lion facing left with mouth open.*

137.	.62	44	samasi.
138.	.58	36.5	sama(si).
139.	.57	34.5	Legend worne out.
140.	.61	35	Do

XI. *Pendant shaped coins.*

141.	.65	67.5	Do
142.	.60	31.5	Visama
143.	.65	52	sama.
144.	.66	64	sama.
145.	.53	33	sama.
146.	.65	70	sama.

XII. *Varities of script*

147.	.62	49	S′ri Visama.
148.	.72	49	Visamasiddhi.
149.	.65	46	Visamasiddhi.
150.	.62	52	Visamasiddhi.
151.	.62	37	Visamasiddhi.
152.	.60	38	Visamasiddhi.
153.	.60	38	Visamasiddhi.
154.	.62	37.5	Visamasiddhi.
155.	.62	57	Visamasi(ddhi).

No.	Size	Weight	Legend
156.	.64	37.5	Visamasiddhi.
157.	.61	36.5	Visamasi.
158.	.62	60	Visamasi.
159.	.63	60	Visamasi.
160.	.60	39.5	Visamasi.
161.	.64	61	Visamasi.
162.	.61	36.5	Visamasi.
163.	.60	45	Visamasi.
164.	.63	58	Visamasi.
165.	.66	52	Visamasi.
166.	.70	51	Visamasi.
167.	.67	62	Visamasi.
168.	.58.	36	Visamasi.
169.	.61	37	Visamasi.
170.	.61	55	Visamasi.
171.	.62	47	Visamasi
172.	.62	47	Visamasi.
173.	.64	44	Visamasi.
174.	.62	49	Visamasi.
175.	.61	47	Visamasi.
176.	.60	35	Visamasi.
177.	.61	40	Visamasi.
178.	.60	46	Visamasi.
179.	.60	46	Visamasi.
180.	.61	36	Visama.

No.	Size	Weight	Legend
181.	.61	40	Visama.
182.	.70	61	Visama.
183.	.65	34	Visama.
184.	.61	64.5	Visama.
185.	.61	43.5	Visama.
186.	.61	48	Visama.
187.	.60	43.5	Visama.
188.	.60	37	Visama.
189.	.65	38	samasiddhi.
190.	.64	46.5	samasi.
191.	.66	60	samasi.
192.	.60	47	sama(si)
193.	.62	47	samasi.
194.	.61	58.5	samasi.
195.	.60	38	samasi.
196.	.58	40.5	samasi.
197.	.68	59.5	sama.
198.	.60	52	sama.
199.	.60	48	sama.
	XIII.	*Reverse varieties*	
200.	.60	42	..
201.	.60	45	....
202.	.57	48	....
203.	.61	51	....
204.	.65	54.5	....
205.	.61	48	....

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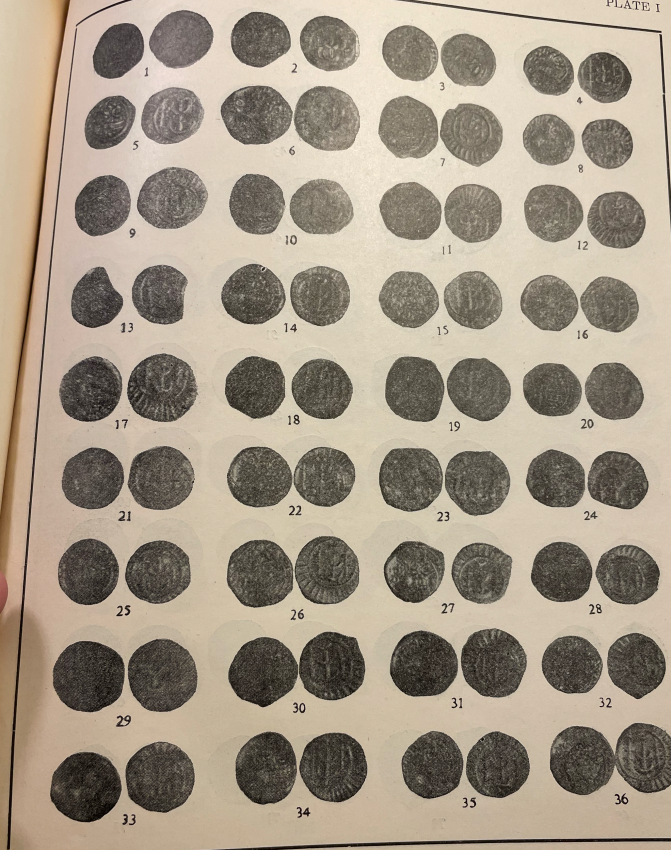

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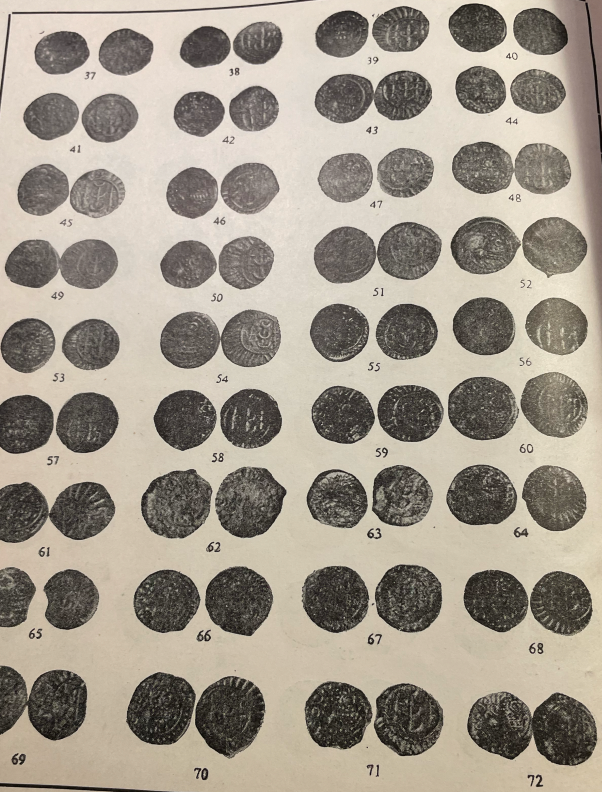

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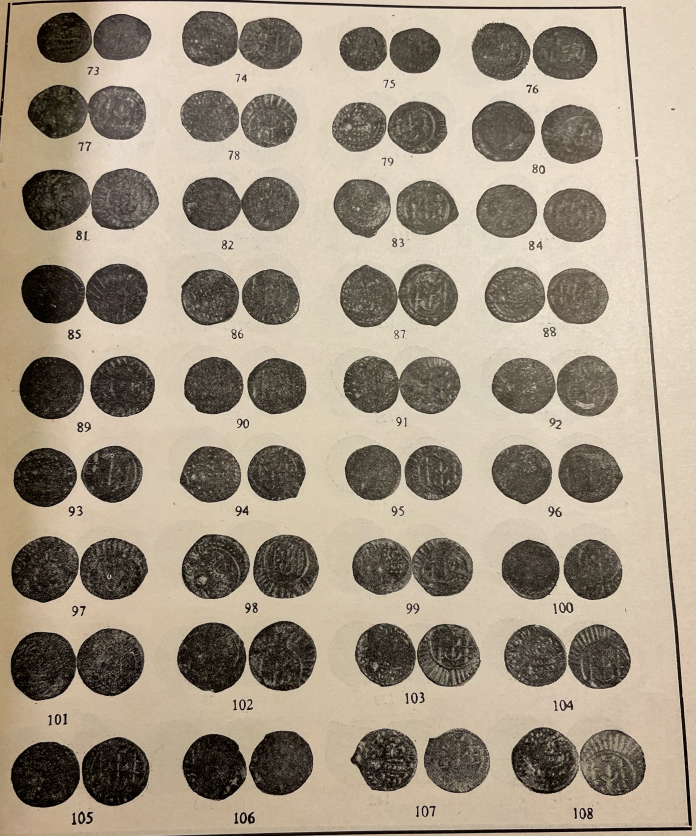

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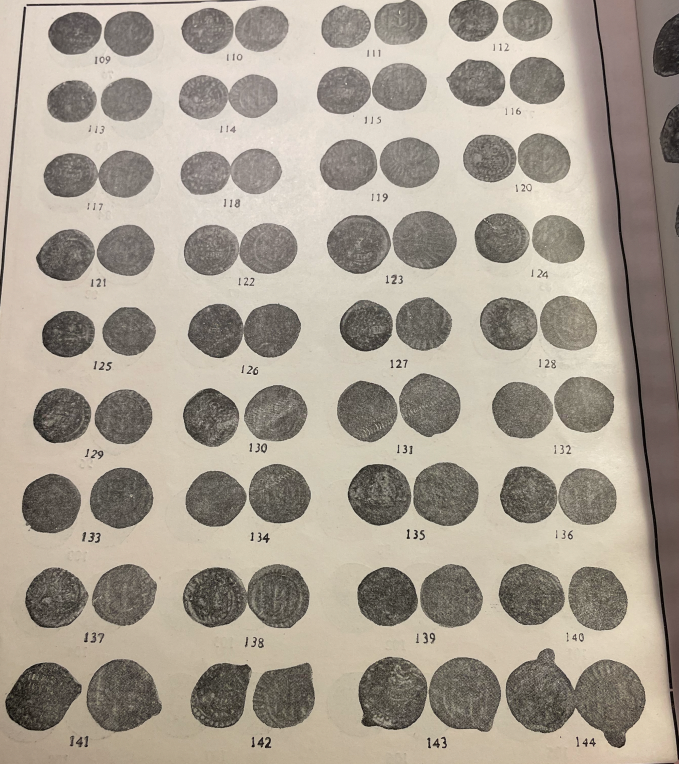

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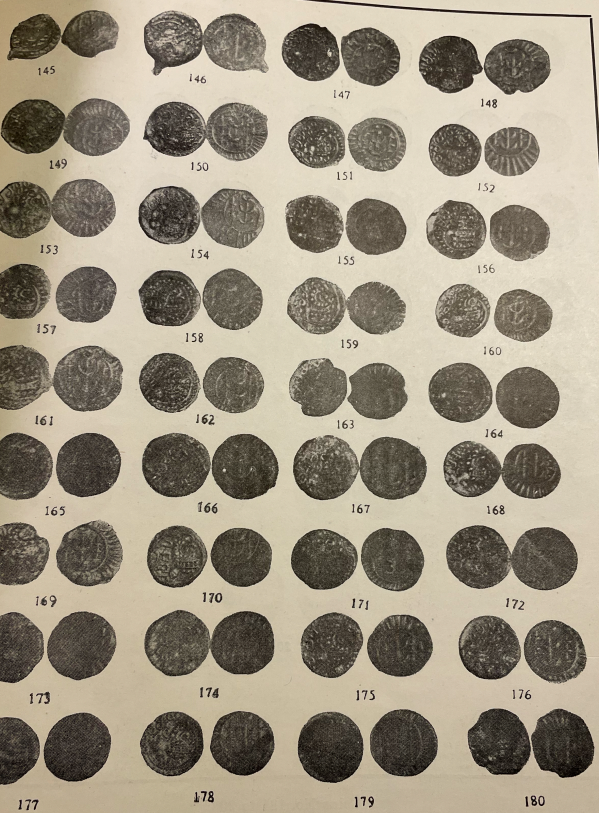

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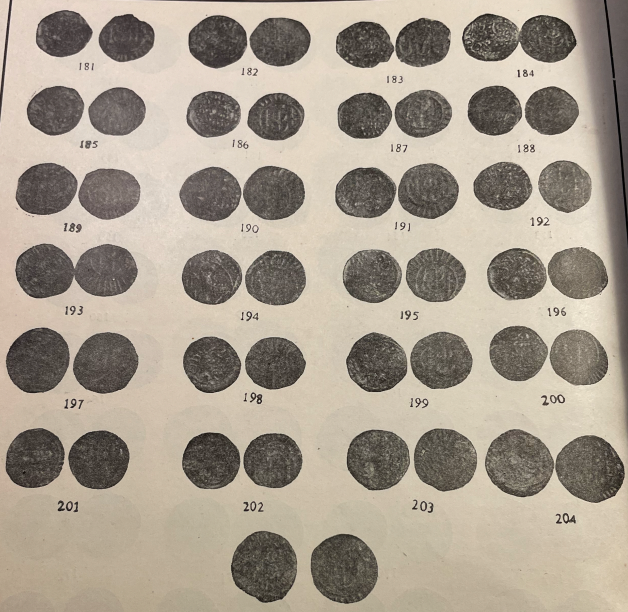

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